N' Schoenie Altie He'math

M. A. GRUBER

Wo's Seidel's Kop' am Himmel hengt,
Wo's Haaga Dahl ins Lutza zwengt,
Dazwischa uf der Summer Seid
Und iwwers Dahl, paar Ruda weid,
Der winterseidig Hiwwel nuf
Bis in der Busch ganz owwa druf,
In diesem Dahl beschuetzt und kle',
Beschteht 'n He'math alt und schoe.

M'r wolla's widder sehna geh,
Die alt forbildlich He'math schoe.

M'r kumma uf die alt Schtaet Schtros,
Die macht ans Kricka Muehl sich los
Und schpringt ans Kloppa Schtohr ferbei
Bis uf der Schtaet Berg hoch und frei.

Ans Kloppa is m'r als bal dort;
M'r laufa dann nach Westen fort,
E' Hiwwel nunner, der naechscht no nuf,
Und schtoppa bissel owwa druf
Paar Yard am Schtehn'na Haus ferbei;
No dreha m'r rechts der Busch-schtick nei
Und grattla iwwer die Fens ins Feld.

M'r laufa fort wie's uns gefellt
Bis owwa uf die Schnerr; now schtop;
Dort driwwa in der Seidel's Kop';
Do hunna, links, is Lutza Dahl;
Und weiter drunna sehnscht 'n Schtrahl,—
Sell is die Grick im Haaga Dahl;
Und grad do hunna iwwer die Wiss
Die alt, bequem, schoe He'math is.

'Sis gar nix faenciess dort am Haus,
'Sis awwer sauwer, Dreck all h'aus;
'N dopplet, zweh-schtock, Block Gebeu,
Bal alles alt, sehr wennig neu.
'Nn feiner Bamgarta owwa dro
Macht Winters, Summers, Herbscht froh;
Im Winter halt's der kalt Wind weg,
Im Summer gebt's manch Schatta Fleck,
Und dann im Herbscht sinn Eppel do.

Now guck's mohl a', wie schoe der Platz;
'N herrlich Lied, 'n Bauerer Schatz!
Von Scheuerhoff zu Bamgart' Fens
Is Frehd und Gut und ke Expens;
Von Bamgart' End zu Scheuereck
'N herrlicher Vergnuegen Schtreck!

In all die Daehler weid herum
Hot Niemand so 'n Eigenthum,
Vorbildlich, herrlich, schoe, bequem
Und so erinnerungvoll an He'm!
Mei Grossdaadie, uf der Mutter Seid,
War do dahehm sei Lewezeit;
Vor ihm, sei'm Fater war des Land,—
John Schaeffer alla zweh genannt.

Beim Yuengera John warra siwwa Maed
Die macha in dem Dahl fiel Frehd:
Die aeltscht dafun hehst Mary Ann;
Die naechscht, ihr Mutter no, Susann;
Dann Sarah; die Priscilla's fiert,
Und war dann's zwet der Tod weg fuehrt;
Die 'Liza Ann kummt's naechscht danei,
Und war die erscht das Grab nahm ei;
Die sechst als 'Milia is bekannt;
Die yingscht Elmeina is genannt.

Die aeltscht is als bal siebzich Yahr,
Und bei mir 's hoechscht geschaetzt sogar;
Sie hot so fiel f'r mich geduh
Als yunger und als alter Buh.
'Sis gut zu rota was ich mehn—
Sie is mei Mutter, sell macht's plain.

In sellem Haus hab' ich die Welt
Mei erschter Ohd'm a'gemeldt;
Und wie ich dann dort weg war g'numma
Bin ich als noch uf B'such hie kumma.

Seh yuscht emohl sell ehwa Schtick
Vom Scheuerhof bis ganz zurick
Wo's hinnig'm Bamgarta dort ufhoert!
'Es Haus schteht druf wie's dort druf g'hoert,
Die Scheuer soellt net annerscht sei,
Und dann was macht sell Schtick so fei
Sinn sellie Eppelbaem dort druf,—
Sie nemma grad der recht Platz uf.

Ken He'math findscht uf weid und brehd
Die in sich selbst fasst so fiel Frehd.

Washington, D. C., January 20, 1902

Pannhaas

The word **pannhaas**, often known in English as "scrapple," is for most people interested in cookery definitely associated with the Pennsylvania Germans. That the Pennsylvania Germans did not create this dish, we have shown in a larger treatment of the subject in the ECK for Dec. 28, 1935, in which the origin of the name was traced, the suffix "haas" being a corruption of the Low German **harst**, roast. In a subsequent letter from Professor E. M. Hartman, Principal of Franklin and Marshall College (see ECK, Jan. 18, 1936) he pointed out that the word "scrapple" is more correctly applied to "what is usually called pudding in English, namely, the odds and ends of meat together with some of the internal organs of the pigs or beef which were boiled in a big iron kettle then cut fine or ground and stored in crocks. Melted fat was poured over the top of this meat in the crock, and this fat hardened and sealed the crock and preserved the contents indefinitely. The contents of the crocks when used were cut out in slices and fried, and this was known as scrapple."

And now one of our correspondents calls our attention to an actual recipe for **pannhaas** from Germany. In Davidis' PRAKTISCHES KOCHBUCH FUR GEWOEHNLICHE UND FEINERE KUECHE, the most widely known of all German cookbooks (the 30th edition appeared in 1890!) under the entry "Panhas" we find the following:

Der Panhas wird am besten, wenn man dazu halb Rindfleisch, halb etwas fettes Schweinefleisch nimmt; jedoch kann man ihn sowohl von ersterem, als auch von letzterem schmackhaft zubereiten. Man koche das Fleisch recht weich, suche alle Knoechelchen vorsichtig heraus, schneide dasselbe in grosze Wuerfel, hacke es fein und lasse es mit der Bruehe, welche durch ein Sieb gegossen wird, zum Kochen kommen. Dann wuerze man es mit Salz, Pfeffer, Nelken und Nelkenpfeffer, streue unter fortwaehrendem Ruehren so viel gutes Buchweizenmehl (Weizenmehl kann nicht hierzu gebrucht werden) hinein, dasz die Masse, nachdem das Mehl ausgequollen und der Panhas ½—¾ Stunde gekocht hat, recht steif wird und sich vom Topfe loest. .... Nach dem Kochen wird er auf folgende Weise gebraten: Man macht Butter oder gutes Fett in einer Pfanne heiss, schneidet den Panhas in Scheiben von der Dicke eines kleinen Fingers, legt sie dicht nebeneinander und laeszt sie unbedeckt auf beiden Seiten gelb und kross braten, doch duerfen sie nicht austrocknen, muessen vielmehr inwendig weich bleiben.

Although **pannhaas** is among our Pennsylvania Germans a byproduct of the butchering season and the German recipe is one that is readily used at any time, the process does not really differ in its essentials.

The Life and Works of Michael A. Gruber

A THESIS BY DONALD SELLERS KLOPP

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS, August, 1937, at the Pennsylvania State College, The Graduate School, Department of English Litrature.

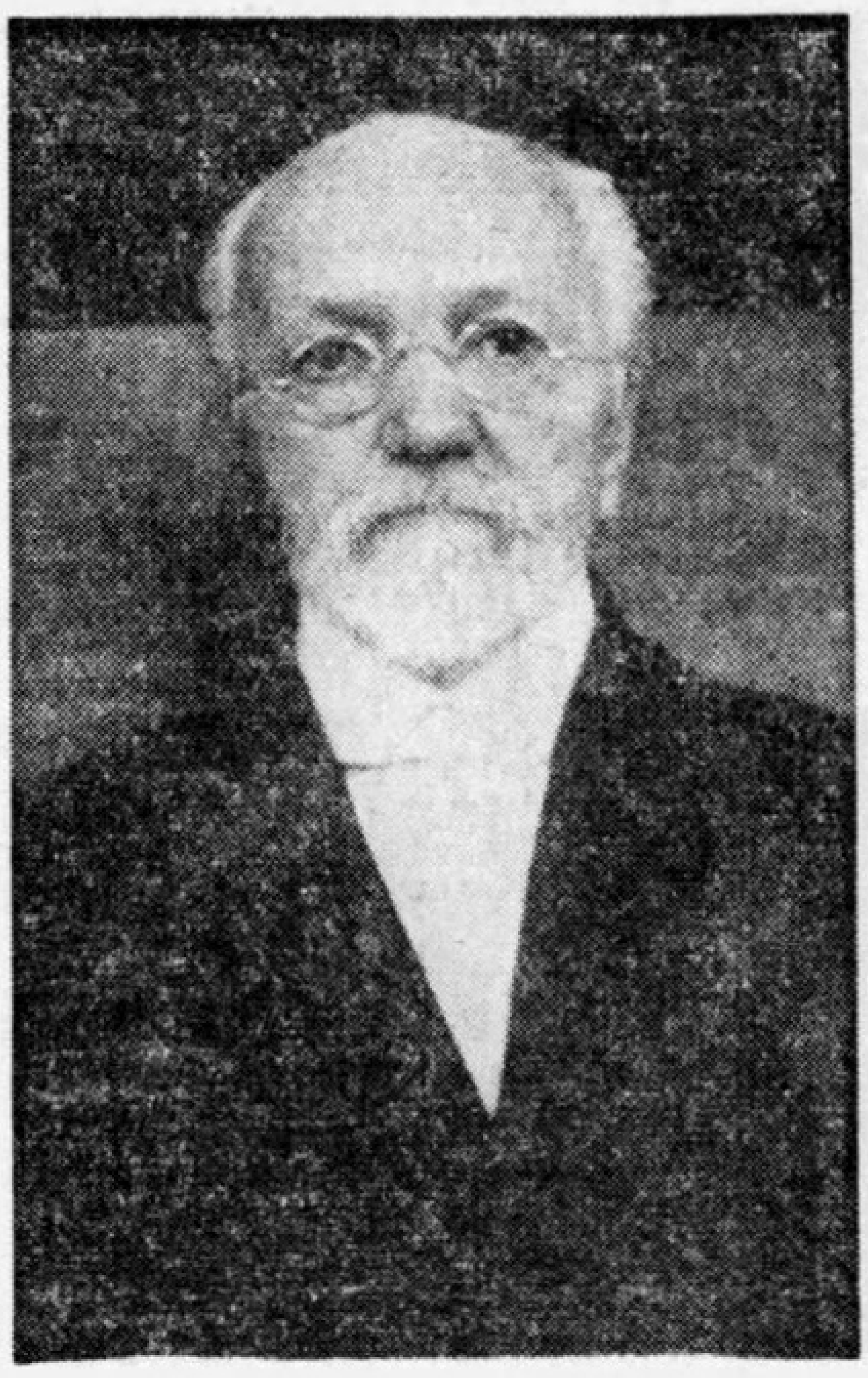
(For permission to print this unpublished hesis we are indebtd to Pennsylvania State College and to Professor W. L. Werner of the English Department of that college. But thanks are due also to Mr. Donald S. Klopp, the writer of the thesis, and to Mr. Michael A. Gruber himself for their various courtsies.—Ed.)

PREFACE

The introductory portions of this thesis deal with the life of Michael A. Gruber, the nature of his writings in both poetry and prose, and the system of orthography used in his Pennsylvania-German compositions. Then follows a collection of twelve of his dialectic poems as published, each followed by a translation into English, the latter unpublished. Seven dialectic poems with translations, none hitherto published, complete the main text of the thesis. All of the poems are annotated, especially where the verse refers to matters germane to Pennsylvania-German backgrounds, ideals, and customs. The thesis concludes with a bibliography in three sections: annotations on all of Mr. Gruber's writings; biographical sources; and a list of the more important general sources consulted during the duration of the study.

Without the generous assistance and inspiration of the Reverend Dr. P. C. Croll of Womelsdorf, Pa.; the late Editor H. W. Kriebel, Pennsburg, Pa.; Dr. Arthur Graeff, Philadelphia, Pa.; the Reverend H. S. Kidd, Souderton, Pa.; Mr. D. K. Hoch, Circulation Manager of the Reading Eagle; Mr. Milton J. Stump, Custodian of Records at St. Daniel's Church, Robesonia, Pa.; the librarians of the Berks County Historical Society, Reading, Pa.; and Professor R. M. Moll, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Berks County,—the progress, if not the completion of this work would have been immeasurably hindered.

An especial debt, however, is due to Mr. Gruber who in his eighty-second year, and sometimes under adverse circumstances, has been most patient in his assistance and generous of his time in furnishing authoritative information.



MICHAEL A. GRUBER
*** April 24, 1855—**

THE LIFE OF MICHAEL A. GRUBER (1)

Farmer's son, school teacher to more than fifty future teachers, honored government clerk retired after thirty-six years of faithful service, mathematician, translator, historian, genealogist, and poet of his people are chapters written into the life story of Michael A. Gruber, a story longer in years than the span of half this country's national history.

The boy Michael was born on a small farm in North Heidelberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, the farm having been owned and occupied for more than two generations in turn by his mother's grandfather and father, each bearing the name John Schaeffer. The dialect poem, "En Schoenie Altie He'math," (2) describes this place of Michael's birth and the girlhood of his mother. This, however, was his home only from April 24, 1855, to about April 3, 1856. In this home his mother was born and grew up, and here also his mother's father lived all his life time. As it was quite customary several generations ago for a newly married daughter to remain with her parents until she and her husband had decided upon a permanent home and occupation, so it was not until the spring of 1856 that Michael's parents began housekeeping and farming on a sixty-acre farm which had just been purchased from the estate of his mother's maternal grandfather, Daniel Staudt (1783-1855), deceased. This farm was about a mile and a half southward of the birthplace, "En Schoenie Altie He'math," and lay along the southern boundary of North Heidelberg Township, excepting that a hill in the southern portion of the farm extended into Heidelberg Township. On this location, bordered by a farm owned by the poet's grandfather, Michael Gruber, and by the Charming Forge property, the young married couple resided from the spring of 1856 until their retirement in 1900, with the exception of two years. Here the boy Michael was reared amid surroundings that had been familiar to five generations of his Gruber forbears.

The first of these Gruber ancestors to reside among the hills in the fertile Lebanon Valley was an immigrant, Henry Gruber, who settled in the region forty years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence. He is, without a doubt, the same Henrich Gruber whose name appears on a list of foreigners imported in the ship Dragon, Charles Hargrave, Master, from Rotterdam, last from Plymouth, qualified and landed at Philadelphia, September 30, 1732. He came from some part of Germany, possibly Bavaria. He appears to have been naturalized at a Supreme Court held at Philadelphia on April 10 and 11, 1761. One of his neighbors, Michael Schauer (Shower), became a citizen at the same time.

In 1737 and 1747 there were warranted and surveyed to this Henry Gruber, in what is now North Heidelberg Township, three adjoining tracts of land containing 300 acres, on part of which he is shown to have been living as early as 1735. The land was patented to him on March 23, 1761, by Thomas and Richard Penn, and eight years later he divided it into two almost equal parts, giving for certain considerations, the eastern and homestead portion to his youngest son Henry, born in 1747.

The original Gruber to own these lands, the immigrant Henry, was one of sixteen male members who organized the Lutheran Congregation of Heidelberg Township about 1750-1751, now known as St. Daniel's (Corner) Church. He and his wife are therefore, likely buried in the old burial ground at that church, but no tombstones to that effect have been found. Some sixty persons born of that surname are, however, buried in the three burial grounds at that church.

The immigrant Henry Gruber died in 1777. His age is not recorded, but from the fact that his younger brother Christian Gruber was born in 1712, it is evident that Henry was born prior to 1712. He and his wife, Maria Eva Rosina, had four sons and three daughters. The line of descent of Michael, whose poems are collected in this paper, is through the eldest son, John Adam Gruber (1735-1807). He and his wife, Elizabeth (1734-1790) are buried at St. Daniel's Church. They had eight sons and four daughters, of whom six sons and four daughters grew up.

The second son and fourth child of John Adam Gruber was named John (1769-1840). He, the great-grandfather of the present-day Michael, became the owner of the homestead in 1807, but at no time conducted the farm. For nearly twenty-seven years he lived on and conducted the farm near the "Blue Marsh" in Bern Township, Berks County, owned by Joseph Hiester who was Governor of Pennsylvania. This farm is now included in the Berks County Prison tract. He, too, is buried at St. Daniel's. He and his wife, Anna Maria Lasch (1769-1829), were parents of five sons and a daughter.

The fourth son of John Gruber, who bore the name Michael, the name afterwards given to his grandson, was born on the Deininger farm, now part of the city of Reading, and grew up on the Governor Hiester farm. He married Eva Bohn (1806-1890), daughter of George Bohn and wife Maria Kissinger. In 1834 he bought and removed to a farm of about eighty acres in Heidelberg Township, where he lived the remainder of his life. He and his wife are buried at "Corner" Church. They had three sons and two daughters, the youngest daughter dying in childhood.

The youngest son of Michael Gruber was the poet's father, Richard Michael Gruber (1834-1909), born and reared on his father's farm in Heidelberg Township. At the age of sixteen he started out to become a tailor, but followed this trade for only a few years. He then became a farmer. In connection with farming he also taught thirteen consecutive terms of school in North Heidelberg Township in which township he began housekeeping and farming in 1856, and resided there the rest of his life. He had also previously taught three consecutive terms of school in Penn Township, Berks County. He and his wife, Mary Ann Schaeffer, are also buried at St. Daniel's.

The mother, Mary Ann, was the oldest of a family of seven daughters of John Schaeffer (1807-1873) and wife Susanna Staudt (1807-1887). Her paternal grandparents were John Schaeffer (1778-1853) and his wife Magdalene Richard (1785-1868) who are buried at the Little Tulpehocken Church, about a mile and a half southwestward of Bernville, Pennsylvania. Her maternal grandparents were Daniel Staudt (1783-1855) and Susanna Ulrich (1787-1841) who are buried in the old burial ground at Zion Church, Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania.

The older John Schaeffer mentioned above was the youngest of a family of twelve children of Nicholas Schaeffer (1723-1780) and wife Julianna Ulrich, he being buried at Hain's Church, near Wernersville, Pennsylvania. Some of the family historians believe that this Nicholas Schaeffer was a son of Nicholas (or John Nicholas) Schaeffer who with others in 1723 or later came from the Schoharie, New York Province, and settled in the Tulpehocken region connected with old Reed's Church.

Viewed in the light of such descent, it can readily be seen that the later Michael Gruber was imbued from birth with the real Pennsylvania-German traditions. He retains a respect for these connections which is genuine. His life which was to follow became the natural practice of the ideals and teachings of this long and sturdy stock.

Michael had three brothers. His boyhood companion at work and play was the brother John Emanuel, two years his junior. Till forty-three years of age he lived on his father's farm, taught school eleven terms, and for a hobby made a collection of 458 kinds of wood arranged in a fine cabinet constructed of about 100 kinds of wood. He also possessed an extensive collection of eggs of native birds. His later years were spent in clerking at sales and setting up farm implements. He died suddenly in Robesonia, July 2, 1928. The other brothers are Calvin Luther, born April 6, 1864, and Horace Wayne, born January 26, 1871. Both were born and reared on the homestead mentioned.

Calvin has been for three years a retired school teacher residing at Kutztown, Pennsylvania. He was graduated from the Keystone State Normal School of that place; taught six terms in the public schools of Berks County; and completed thirty-six years of instruction at Keystone State Normal School (later a State Teachers College), first as professor of arithmetic and civil government, and later as Dean of the institution for nine years. A study of botany begun at the age of ten led him to become an outstanding authority on the hawthorn of Eastern United States. He discovered several new species of hawthorns, and was honored in having one named after him. The brother Wayne, after a short teaching and store-clerking experience, entered the employ of the Reading Railroad Company. He resides in Reading, Pennsylvania.

Many of the characteristic traits of the three younger brothers are outstanding traits of the eldest. A well-disciplined farm life helped cement these characteristics. Amid these rural surroundings, in the words of the eldest,

> I grew to manhood, gaining brain and brawn, performing the chores, duties, and labors connected with a farm, becoming acquainted with the different kinds and forms of animal life, wild and domestic, of field, forest, meadow, buildings, water, earth, and air, and the various farm and garden products. (3)

Among these duties, once very common, are many now almost extinct, such as breaking flax, threshing rye with the flail, making thatches and thatching roofs. Though occasionally mischievous, he was ever under the watchful eye of his parents who believed in the rather strict discipline characteristic of the Pennsylvania-Germans of half a century and more ago. It was indeed an exception to the rule for any child to resist or even resent parental guidance. On a Sunday playthings were placed in a corner to remain there till Monday. Church and Sunday School attendance became a habit not to be shunned. Severe lines were drawn between right and wrong. Card playing and dancing were listed as among Satan's wiles. In later life, however, Mr. Gruber came to consider himself mentally benefitted and pleasantly entertained by an occasional game of cards. Although he never actually danced, he gradually took pleasure in "noting the bewitching rhythm of the graceful movements of feet and body."

1. Unless otherwise noted, biographical facts were secured in writing from Mr. Gruber.
2. "En Schoenie Altie He'math." **The Pennsylvania-German Magazine**, v. 3: 157-8 (October, 1902).
3. Quoted from a letter date of March 29, 1937, sent to the writer.

(To be continued.)

Aus Unserm Briefkaschte

Mrs. R. Max Goepp, Jr., of New Castle, Delaware, who has been kind enough to call our attention to the German recipe for "Panhas," as found in this issue of the ECK, writes us as follows:

"For sometime I have been collecting recipes that have beer as an ingredient. I found a great many in Germany, but up-to-date I have only come upon one from the Pennsylvania Germans, "Shrimp Cooked in Beer or Stale Beer." I have spent a great deal of time on this research, and I am now anxious to complete my collection. Would you kindly ask your readers to send in recipes that have beer or stale beer as an ingredient?"

We should be grateful if our readers will assist Mrs. Goepp in her research. If you make any dishes which are prepared with beer as ingredients, please address recipes for such to "S Pennsylfawnisch Deitsch ECK," Allentown Morning Call, Allentown, Pa.

The Life and Works of Michael A. Gruber

A THESIS BY DONALD SELLERS KLOPP

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS, August, 1937, at the Pennsylvania State College, The Graduate School, Department of English Literature.

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(Continued)

Amid the routine of labor, observation, and discipline, education occupied no secondary position. Instruction was an integral part of home life. The father was the boy's only teacher up to the age of sixteen. Group instruction took place at School No. 5, known as Forge School, in North Heidelberg Township, where for eleven years the father served as teacher. Many of the pupils came from the Charming Forge vicinity, principally from the Samuel Sellers and the Jacob Ebling families. In some years there were as many as sixty pupils in attendance. The pupils were then classified as follows: 1. Those learning the letters or A B C's; 2. Those learning simple words of two, three, four, and more letters found in the old Sander's "Spelling Book"; 3. The Primer Class studying simple words in reading; 4. Those in the First Reader; 5. Those in the Second Reader; 6. Those in the Third Reader; 7. Those in the Fourth Reader; 8. An occasional student in the Fifth Reader. At the age of seven Michael Gruber entered the Forge School classified among the Third Reader group.

The school boy prepared for college at the Womelsdorf Academy from 1871 to 1875. Efficient in his teaching, a lover of the mathematical studies, a disciplinarian who suited the punishment to the offense, the master of the school, Professor John S. Krumbine, left an indelible imprint on his new pupil. In a speech made fifty-two years after his matriculation at the Academy, Mr. Gruber remarked,

> Having a thorough knowledge of the subjects that he taught, Professor Krumbine proceeded in his instruction with a knowledge of the results to be obtained. He endeavored to give to his pupils a working education—an education that can be utilized for some good end or purpose, that creates thought and power, and that leads on to action. (4)

A poem commemorative of the school, the teacher, and the pupils is "Die Womelsdorfer 'Cademie."

Mr. Gruber entered Muhlenberg College as a member of the junior class in September, 1875, and was graduated two years later at the head of a class of eight members. The two honor men of that class are still living. Three years after graduation he received the degree of Master of Arts from the same institution.

The teaching profession next attracted this son of North Heidelberg Township. His first school was the grammar grades of the Heidelberg Township schools in Robesonia, 1877-1878. Among the present residents of that community who attended that school are Miss Tillie Miller, Mrs. Nora Filbert Bollman, and Mr. Julius J. G. Moyer. The next two terms found the teacher in charge of the intermediate grade of the Ontelaunee Township schools in Leesport. At this time a controversy regarding the teaching of pupils who spoke Pennsylvania-German arose. Mr. Gruber joined into the argument by writing several of a series of letters which for a time flooded the desk of the editor of the Reading Daily Eagle. The Reverend D. E. Schoedler, a Professor Zellers, and a Mr. George W. Unger took part in the heated debate to determine whether non-English speaking pupils can be instructed in English better by teachers who known high German and the dialect or by teachers, perchance from distant regions, who can not speak the dialect. Mr. Gruber in a letter to the editor affirmed that English should be taught and that it is best taught by teachers who know German. He said further,

> . . . I will add that there is no people under the sun so sympathetic, hospitable, honest, honorable, agreeable, affable, energetic, and so attentive to the wants of others as the Pennsylvania Germans. (5)

He continued his teaching career at the following places: Bernville Grammar School, 1880-1886; Penn Township Grammar School, 1886-February, 1887; Principal of the schools of Marion, South Carolina, February, 1887-June, 1888; Penn Township Grammar School, 1888-1889; Bernville Grammar School, 1889-1891. Most of the terms, it is noted, were taught in the vicinity of Bernville. The school at Bernville was a combined Grammar and High School, in which, in addition to the common branches, he taught Latin, German, algebra, geometry, and occasionally Greek. The public school session of six months was sometimes augmented by a private session of four weeks in fall and eleven weeks in spring or summer. The two-fold objective of the sessions was to prepare pupils for teaching and for entrance to higher institutions of learning.

During the spring of 1881 there was an interlude in the usual teaching routine occasioned by Mr. Gruber's entrance into the political race for the superintendency of the schools of his county. A three-day candidate sponsored by the outgoing Superintendent Baer, he withdrew his name after the first ballot. Others nominated were Schoedler and Flood. The three-day candidate again was nominated in the election of 1884, but withdrew his name before balloting and the incumbent gained re-election. When the time of the next subsequent election arrived, Mr. Gruber was residing outside the state.

The ideals in which the teacher, Gruber, believed have brought rich rewards to his former students. In his own words, these ideals were

> . . . to give knowledge and strength of mind and soul, but also to lead the boys and girls, through the kinds of instruction given, to think for themselves not merely with reference to the present but also with due consideration to the future, and to be thoroughly imbued with the thought that knowledge is power, which when properly used and applied will aid in dispelling narrowmindedness, will help to solve many knotty problems in life, and will assist in steering clear of baneful prejudices and strangely enticing but deceiving prospects. (6)

The record of his pupils speaks for itself. During his last year as instructor in Bernville (1891), forty of his former pupils were teaching in his native county. (7) Many had already been graduated from higher institutions, such as Muhlenberg College, Franklin and Marshall College, Princeton University, Lutheran and Reformed Theological Seminaries, several medical institutions, and normal schools at Kutztown, West Chester, and Millersville. This is a partial list. Others, through Civil Service, obtained positions with the government at Washington, D. C. The Reading Eagle of August 6, 1907, mentioned eight persons as being in the latter class, then drawing salaries ranging from "$1,000 to $1,800 a year." (8) One, a former pupil named Charles C. Wagner, was reported by the same newspaper as being a clerk in the office of President Calvin Coolidge.

The record of this family of school teachers is not alone prominent; it has, moreover, one feature which is thought to be unique. The father and his four sons were, at one time or another, all teachers. During the sixteen terms taught by the parent, the boys, as they came of age, attended his school. The eldest son taught fourteen terms and had as pupils his **two youngest brothers**; the second son taught eleven terms and had as pupil his youngest brother; the third son with a total of fifty-one years as teacher had as pupil the youngest son; and this youngest son also taught three terms. More strangely still, in the same building in which the father taught eleven terms, the second and third sons each taught one term and the last son two terms. The number of terms taught by the group is ninety-five years.

On Christmas day following his college graduation, Mr. Gruber was married to Amelia Margaret Petree, a daughter of the late John F. Petree and wife Rosanna Fidler, of Womelsdorf. She was born November 17, 1857, and died October 15, 1934. Of this union were born four sons and five daughters, of whom one son and four daughters grew up. The son, Ralph Arthur, died in 1911 at the age of thirty-two, leaving a wife, formerly Louisa E. Eckert, and a daughter, who married Edwin G. Erb. The four daughters are Grace Evangeline, wife of Augustus C. Weik, residing on a farm near Newmanstown, Pennsylvania; Ella Florence, divorced wife of Harry E. Betz, living in Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania; Annie May, married to Fred Hassler, living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Mary (Mollie) Amelia, wife of Webster Schnabel of Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Gruber was married a second time on June 19, 1935, to Miss Ida Walker, born March 21, 1856. Miss Walker was the youngest daughter and the last of a family of nine of John Walker (1812-1857) and wife Hannah Matilda Thaw (1813-1863), of Washington, D. C. Her parental grandfather, George Walker, came from Ireland, and her paternal grandmother, Dorcas Tucker, came from Scotland. Her maternal grandparents were Joseph Thaw and his wife Eliza VanTyler Woodside, who came to Washington in 1800 with the transfer of the national capitol from Philadelphia.

Although Mr. Gruber has always had a high respect for the teaching profession, it was evident from the first that he was not entirely satisfied with the conditions and restrictions under which teachers were compelled to live in those times. In a letter written to the Reading Daily Eagle (9) two years after his entrance into his chosen field of work, he declared emphatically that unless teachers were given better remuneration those who were really sincere would be crowded out by quacks. Teachers, he continued, were openly slandered, reviled, and mocked at, their reputations woefully lower than in previous decades. "No one can afford to prepare himself for teaching with the little salary he gets," concluded the writer. His home borough, Bernville, could not afford to pay salaries commensurate with the kind and quantity of work done, although by reason of the amount of outside tuition taken in by the Grammar School during the public school terms of 1889-1891, the salaries might readily have been raised five to ten dollars a month. Because of the teacher's prior contract and the pleadings of economy, three of the six members of the Bernville School Board voted against an increase.

Determined to effect a change, Mr. Gruber wrote to the Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., for instructions and blanks regarding Civil Service examinations. By March 13, 1891, he had taken and passed the examination for a clerkship in the Departmental Service. His ratings were announced about a month later, and on May 16, 1891, he was sworn in as a clerk in the War Department at Washington. From this time on, most of his writings emanate from that city.

The thiry-six-year-old government clerk was assigned to work in the Tenth Street Branch of the War Department, which was located in the Old Ford Theater in which Lincoln had been assassinated. This building was taken over by the government and for a number of years was occupied by a clerical force for the purpose of carding federal records of the Civil War. The carding of individual records of the thousands of persons who served in that war served to expedite federal pensions. Subsequently, clerks carded the records of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, several Indian wars, the War with Spain, and the Confederate records of the Civil War. Mr. Gruber assisted in carding many of these records.

In connection with the Ford Theater, the government was installing an electric plant in that building in 1892 and 1893, by a series of excavations and reinforcements under the first floor. As the final part of the work was being completed at the Tenth Street side of the building, the three floors from the air-well in the center of the building to the Tenth Street wall collapsed, carrying down clerks, desks, and iron beams. Fortunately, Mr. Gruber was seated just inside the line of the break and escaped uninjured, as did others not located in the wrecked portion. The building was in part rebuilt and strengthened. After working there for several more years, Mr. Gruber was transferred to the State, War, and Navy Building at Seventeenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, where he performed clerical service in various capacities, finally becoming a clerk in the Publication Division of the Adjutant General's Office, War Department. In that capacity he assisted in preparing and editing Army Regulations, Training Manuals, and War Department General Orders and Circulars.

While in the employ of the government, Mr. Gruber used what leisure time there was in literary work and in the pursuit of several other hobbies. It appears that all of these pursuits were treated with that scholarship and thoroughness which marked the teacher-clerk's life as exemplary. First, mathematics intrigued his attention: an offshoot of Professor Krumbine's early devotion. He made a special study for several years of Diophantine Analysis, a form of Indeterminate Analysis; integral, rational triangles; and solutions by continued fractions. The American Mathematical Monthly, vols. I-IX, published a number of his problems and solutions. Too, he invented a trisector of plane angles.

An active interest in the study of botany, begun as a teacher, continued. The poems, "Die Alta Bapplabaem" (10) and "Mei Mutter Ihra Garta," (11) disclose fine examples of botanical observation.

The composition of Pennsylvania-German poems became a kind of hobby. The Reverend Dr. P. C. Croll and his successor, Mr. H. W. Kriebel, as editors of the Pennsylvania-German Magazine, published ten such poems in dialect. (12) Several others were published elsewhere Regarding the poems in dialect, and also the poems in English, more will be said in a later chapter.

Another diversion became the study of things historical and genealogical. In the evenings, on Sundays, holidays, and annual vacations he gathered material and prepared outlines and sketches on genealogy for the Gruber family and allied families. Many inquiring persons besought him for such information. This led to a tangential interest, the preparation of drafts and brief descriptions of many of the original tracts of land taken up by the first settlers in the present townships of North Heidelberg, Heidelberg Bern, Penn, Jefferson, and Tulpehocken, including the following large grants of land: the William Allen Tract; the Manor of Plumpton, and Richard Penn's Manor. He obtained close to 200 copies of original surveys of such tracts from the Department of Internal Affairs, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and from the office of the Recorder of Deeds, Reading, Pennsylvania.

During the period of these various researches, Mr. Gruber paid almost annual summer visits to the scenes of his youth. He took lodgings at the Eagle Hotel, Robesonia. Always neatly dressed in coat and tails, wearing an immaculately white shirt, wing collar, and white bow tie, he was a welcomed and intimately familiar figure wherever he went. Oftimes he carried an imposing-looking camera and tripod, with which he took hundreds of pictures mainly scenes of historical interest. The pictures were carefully annotated when printed. A large collection of these photographs is deposited in the Robesonia High School Library. Another series was made into a handsome book which Mr. Gruber presented to the Robesonia Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of the town's Diamond Jubilee Celebration in 1930. The scenes are of historical interest. Other photographs were used to illustrate several of his books and articles.

A lifetime so replete with work and useful leisure time activities hastened on to the day that saw his retirement from government service on April 23, 1927 at the age of seventy-two. After reaching the age of seventy, his time of retirement was extended two years because of his special qualifications. His last day in the office was a noteworthy one in his life. Among many friends come to congratulate him were Major General R. C. Davies, Adjutant General; Lieutenant Colonel J. A. Berry, officer in charge of the publication bureau; and Chief Clerk Johnson of the office in which the pensioned employee worked. Flowers, a birthday cake with seventy-two candles, and an expensive watch engraved with the words, "From friends of the A. G. O., April 24, 1927," were presented. In a long front-page, right-column story of Mr. Gruber's life and retirement, the **Reading Eagle** (13) stated that in the future he planned to devote his time to writing, to local history, research, and genealogy, utilizing the Library of Congress.

Mr. Gruber, now in his eighty-third year, resides at the Cavelier Hotel in Washington, D. C., with his wife. While no longer in perfect health, he is able to go about, to read, to write, and to translate. His memory of persons, places, and events is prodigious. Perhaps the best way to state this is in the words of one who has known him for over half a century—"I admire Mr. Gruber very much and have long since regarded him as a scholar. I never meet him but I learn something." (14)

In the later years of a long and fruitful life, this native-born spokesman of Berks County's Pennsylvania Germans writes,

> I have hau very little fear of harm or danger; yet I fe't that it is not conducive to proper living to r sk life or limb just for the fun of doing so. It seems that good fortune accompanied me even when misfortune and certain adverse circumstances beset my path; yet perhaps the direct influence was not so much good luck as it was kind fate, whatever that may be.
>
> Whatever I have accomplished, be it much or little, I have strived, as the poet put it, to live in deeds, not merely in years; in thoughts, not only in breaths; in feelings, not just in figures on a dial; and in some cases I have counted time by heart-throbs. (15)

4. "Old Academy Days," a paper prepared and read by the author on the occasion of the Bicentennial Celebration of the Tulpehocken Settlement, Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania, September, 1923.
5. "M. A. Gruber on English and German," **Reading Daily Eagle**, March 29, 1879.
6. Quoted from a letter of March 29, 1937, to the writer.
7. "Bernville Old Home Week," **Reading Eagle**, August 6, 1907.
8. "Berks Native Retired after 36 Years of Faithful Service," **Reading Eagle**, March 28, 1927.

9—"The Salaries of Our Teachers," 'Reading Daily Eagle, April 1, 1879.
10—"Die Alta Bapplabaem," Pennsylvania-German Magazine, v 6: 267-268 (April, 1905)
11—"Mei Mutter Ihra Garta," op. cit., 14: 1: 66-67 (Jan., 1913)
12—Consult the annotated bibliography for titles.
13—"Berks Native Retired after 36 Years of Faithful Service," **Reading Eagle**, March 28, 1927.
14—Mr. D. K. Hoch, Circulation Manager, **Reading Eagle** in a letter to the writer, June 7, 1937.
15—In a letter to the writer, March 29, 1937.

(To be continued)

Was Meent's?

Es kommt mer vor die Oschtere
Hen ihr Meening gans verlore;
Die Kinner griege alles
As wie Oiyer, wie vor Yohre.

Yuscht Tschockolaat un Zucker
Un Oranges debei;
Deel griege gaar ken Oiyer,
Mer meent es kennt net sei.

Sie griege Sei un Hinkel,
Un Monkeys dann un wann;
Bis kee verschtendig Schulkind
Die Meening sehne kann.

Mer meent der Vatter Noah
Waer selver uff der Welt,
So hen die dumme Mensche
Die Oschtere gans verschtellt.

'S iss yuscht wie mit Grischdaag,
'S iss alles Fresserei;
Ich wunner was sie wisse,
Wann alles iss verbei?

—Louise A. Weitzel
1862-1934

Mei Mutter Ihra Pei

MICHAEL A. GRUBER

Ich kann mei Mutter sehna
Am Tisch im Kicha Eck,
Die Pei—die guta, schoena—
Zurischta ohna Fleck;
En Schtick Peidehg genumma,
Mit Mehl schoe zamma g'schtickt,
Das Rollholz no' druf kumma
Und brehd, dinn ausgedrickt;

Die Patty-pan dann haendig,
Der dinn Dehg neigepresst,
Das Peisach no' inwendig,
Und mit Deckel abgedresst;
En guter g'hitzter Offa,
Die Pei no' schnell hinei,
En paar mohl hie geloffa
Und gewatscht die Backerei.

Die Pei sin endlich fertig,
F'r yeder Ims en Pei,
Un yedie Art abertig
Gemarckt was zu sei.
Mit Deckel sin die maenschta;
En paar, wie Custard, uff;
Und dehl, fielleicht die schoenschta,
Hen Schtraefa kreutzweis druff.

An Peisach mangelt's nie net,
Die Pei sin foll und dick;
Meim Appedit no' dienet
Am Endt fom Ims en Schtick.
F'r schier gar fufzig Yohra
Uf ihrem Tisch so fei
Bei yeder Imszeit waara
Mei Mutter ihra Pei.
1912.

(Mr. Gruber's poems are printed according to his own orthography.—Ed.)

(Among the pies on the Grubers' table, and on other Pennsylvania German tables, too, were the following: apple, cherry, currant (green and ripe), gooseberry, blackberry, elderberry, raspberry, groundcherry (yudakerscha), peach, quince, grape (green and ripe), tomato (green), rhubarb, mince (made with Yankee rum), egg-custard, cherry-custard, cheese-custard, occasional raisin, huckleberry, and pumpkin. Ripe currants were generally made in pies with top crust of sweet dough cut in narrow strips, that is "Schtraefa kreutzweis druff." Much of the fruit was jarred for use out of season. There was also a sweet crumb pie (Zucker-rivvel pei). Among the cakes were the old-fashioned sugar-cake, crumb-cake and molasses cake.

As was the custom among many Pennsylvania German families, the Gruber table had as the last dish of the meal pies for breakfast, pies for dinner and pies for supper. At the annual butchering time, which generally took place some time in November, mince meat was prepared in sufficient quantity to last four or five months, and hot mince pies were regularly served at breakfast, though seldom at other meals.—D. S. Klopp).

Der Alt Fischerman

MICHAEL A. GRUBER

Es war 'n alter Fischerman,
Ich hab ihn gut gekennt;
Er hot gewohnt net weit eweck
Von wu die Nordkill endt.

Wann Fischzeit war, hot er die Gert
Und oftmohls drei genumma;
Er hot gewisst wu grossa Fish
Sin um der Kork rum g'schwumma.

Er hot gewisst wu schwartza Warrem
Zu finna sin f'r "Bait";
Und wann die Box foll Warrem war,
War's grad wie frischa Wehd.

Sei Grubhack war als reddy g'schtellt;
Dann Ohwets is er naus,
Und unnig Wahsum, Dreck und Liesch
Ziegt fetta Warrem raus.

Nach Schtaudta oder Kalbach's Damm
Is er frueh Morgets g'schtaert —
Eb Sun-uff an die Grick zu sei,
F'r Fischa is fiel werth.

Sin Plaetz gewest am Tulpehack
Wu Fish, als wenn ferbannt,
Hen yuscht gebissa cert'na Schtun —
Die Plaetz war er bekannt.

Er hot gewisst wu nei zu schmeisa,
Wie hoch der Kork zu schtella;
Er war die diff'rent Schtun bekannt
Wu Fish net beisa wella.

Wenn eischt die Fish gebissa hen
Hot er no au' Fish g'fanga;
Dehl an'ra hen als schier nix grickt
Die mit ihm wara ganga.

Er hot ke' faencia Leina g'hatt,
Und au' ke' deira Gerta;
'S hen awwer Leut gemehnt er het
Erbattig "Bait" und Worta.

Er hot 'n langer Fedtler g'hat;
Und wie 'n Fish war g'fanga,
Hot er ihn gut und schoe eig'fedtelt
Und f'r der naechscht Fish ganga.

'N Hengel Fish mit Hehm zu bringa
War ihm 'n grossie Frehd;
Und wann er 's "Pavement" ruf is kumma
War Hengel lang und brehd.

Doch alsemohl hot 's Zeita g'hat
Die Fish hen net gebissa;
No is er oft die "Alley" Hehm,
Dass mir sei Glick net wissa.

Ins Brossman's Wiss, ans Kenny's Arm,
Und au' am "Island" hinna;
Am Nordkill Fieder, am Foundry Damm,
Und wu die Werwel schpinna;

Ans Kocha und ans Schaeffer's Schliess
Und wu der Riffel ruehrt;
Wu endlich in die Tulpehack
Die Nordkill sich ferliert;

Am ew'ra und am un'ra Damm,
Am Grossa Fieder drunna,
Ans Cunradt's Brick—an all die Plaetz
Hot ihn die Fischzeit g'funna.

'Sis awwer now 'n lehrer Platz
An all die guta Ecka
Wu er gewohnt war Yahra lang
Die Fischgert hie zu schtecka.

Die blotta Blacka an die Grick
Mit Gras sin a'fangs grue;
Der Bullfrog kummt zum Wasser raus
Und setzt sich nehwa hie;

Die Schillgrott schtreckt sich in die Hoeh
Und wunnert was is letz;
Die Gert und Lein is nimmie dort —
Am Endt is ihr Geretz.

Der Tod, der mit seim Hammergarn
F'r Menscha immer fischt,
Schtellt's Garn for'm alta Fischerman
Und hot ihn schoe ferwischt.

Er hot gezawwelt moechtig hardt
Aus sellem Garn zu kumma;
Der Tod hot awwer annerscht g'mehnt,
Und hot ihn mit genumma.

Der gut alt Fischerman is fort;
Er hot die letscht Lein g'schmissa;
'S lauft niemand meh wie er als is
Die Tulpehacka Wissa.

Washington, D. C., June, 1902

NOTE—This poem was written in kind remembrance of John Conrad, for many years the champion fisherman with rod and line of Bernville, Pennsylvania, and vicinity. He died in February, 1902, at the age of seventy-nine—M. A. G.

The Life and Works of Michael A. Gruber

A THESIS BY DONALD SELLERS KLOPP

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS, August, 1937, at the Pennsylvania State College, The Graduate School, Department of English Literature.

(For permission to print this unpublished thesis we are indebted to Pennsylvania State College and to Professor W. L. Werner of the English Department of that college. But thanks are due also to Mr. Donald S. Klopp, the writer of the thesis, and to Mr. Michael A. Gruber himself for their various courtesies.—Ed.)

(Continued)

II. A Consideration of the Writings of Mr. Gruber

1. POETRY

Mr. Gruber has written a total of nineteen poems in the Pennsylvania-German dialect. The following poems have been hitherto published:

Der Alt Fischerman
Die Alta Bapplabaem
Die Letscht Maud Muller
Die Womelsdorfer 'Cademy
Du Bischt Yuscht Graad Wie 'n Blum
Haend All Rum
Mei Mutter Ihra Garta
Mei Mutter Ihra Pei
'M "Leaven" Sei Sauerteh̃g
'N Schoenie Altie He'math
Sell Schtettel im Nordkill Dahl
Zum Andenken an Lee L. Grumbine

Ten of the poems above appeared in the now out-of-print periodical known as the **Pennsylvania-German**, later the **Penn Germania**, the entire period of publication being between 1900-1914. For more detailed information as to the location of these and all other writings discussed in this chapter, the Annotated Bibliography may be consulted. All of the titles are given as they appeared in print, which way was not always as the author had them in manuscript. Changes in the spelling of the verse were sometimes also made by the editors. One of the poems above not published in the **Pennsylvania-German** or its succesor is "Mei Mutter Ihra Pei," which appeared in an elaborate souvenir program-booklet entitled **Die Arsht Pennsylfawnisch Deitsch Fersommling Fun Baerricks Kounty**. This "Fersommling" was held in the Rajah Temple, Reading, Pennsylvania, April 2, 1937. The other poem appearing elsewhere, "Sell Schtettel im Nordkill Dahl," occupied a prominent place in the **Old Home Week Official Program and Souvenir Book**, published by the Program Commiittee in charge of that affair, August 4-10, 1907.

Seven poems in dialect not hitherto published are

Alt Berks im 1928 Election
Eh Dahg
En Denkzeiga
Ehns fun Denna Dahga
O Wan Es Yuscht Mohl Warra Deht
Schtaub Zu Schtaub und Ewigkeit
Unnerschitlicha G'Scheida Leut

Three of his poems are translations. One, beginning "Du bischt yuscht graad wie 'n Blum," is a translation of Heine's poem in high German; "Haend All Rum" is a dialect version of an English poem probably entitled "Hands All Around," unlocated; the third, "O Wan Es Yuscht Mohl Warra Deht," is a translation of a few lines from Robert Burns's "To a Louse."

An examination of the content of these dialectic poems, all of which appear later on in this book, reveals that of the nineteen, twelve relate to Mr. Gruber's native county, Berks, or more particularly, to North Heidelberg Township within that county. The verse expresses a true fervor, an intimate delight, and an unalloyed affection for this region. Frequent references are made to the farm on which he was reared. The people of the region, their customs, superstitions, traits; the flora of the country; the products of the field and garden; accurate descriptions of the terraine—all these intimacies of the poet's life reappear in his Pennsylvania-German poems. Some of the poems, perhaps, like "Ehns fun Denna Dahga," show almost a too minutely geographical picture of the region. For the casual reader suggestion might be used to better effect than the more photographic method of presentation. The writer, however, was thinking apparently of his audience as those who were familiar with those haunts, and to such persons there is no doubt that the photographic method, the correct enumeration of familiar landmarks, gives the greater satisfaction and understanding.

The themes of these poems are not strikingly different from the themes used by other Pennsylvania German writers. An examination of the titles of the poems by writers in the dialect reveals that almost without exception that the poems lie near to the "Denken und Fuehlen of the Folk" (1)

The clean, solid humor of the Pennsylvania "Dutch" is here too. Fine examples are "Die Letscht Maud Muller," "Alt Berks im 1928 Election," and "Unnerschitlicha G'Scheida Leut." "'M Leaven' Sei Sauertehg," though having a humorous undercurrent, could more properly be called an indignant satire in which the author rushes to the defense of his dialect-speaking countrymen. Just as there is gladness, so there is sadness. Mr. Gruber seems to touch this emotion even more effectively than the other. "En Denkzeiga," "Ehns fun Denna Dahga," and "Zum Andenken an Lee L. Grumbine" are serious, elevated, thoughtful compositions.

"Zum Andenken . . . ." says a critric, is an "In Memoriam," full of snatches from Grumbine's own verse skillfully woven into the poem . . . Speaking of this eulogy and several others, he believes that "All are good. . . ."(2)

"Delt Alt Fischerman" should be mentioned as a work having just that certain admixture of humor and pathos most characteristic of the Pennsylvania-German people.

Two other traits appear, both of which are more noticeable in the author's prose works. They are reverence for things religious, and a tenacious adherence to and faith in things historical, matters of the past.

Many of the poems are commemorative in theme. "Der Alt Fischerman" remembers a friend; "Die Alta Bapplebaem" tells the long story of two favorite trees; "Die Womelsdorfer 'Cademie" describes the author's preparatory school; "Mei Mutter Ihra Garta," "Mei Mutter Ihra Pei," and "En Denkzeiga," commemorate the mother and bear a distinct relationship to each other; "N Schoenie Altie He'math" is the author's birthplace; "Sell Schtettel im Nordkill Dahl" recalls the writer's home town; and "Zum Andenken an Lee L. Grumbine" eulogizes a contemporary dialectic poet.

Among the rhymed character sketches Dr. Reichard would place "Der Alt Fischerman" with works of the same type by Weitzel, Fischer, Grumbine, Hark, Keller, Mays, Minnich, Ziegler and Wuchter (4).

Mr. Gruber's high respect for the Pennsylvania-German home—for his home, and for the mother that managed it—comes out time and again in the poems. One can not read far before becoming aware of the real affection that the poems about the home contain. It is a thing of the heart.

In the best treatise on writers in the dialect that we have, Dr. Reichard has said that the poets, Rauch, Meyer, and Gruber, "have lingered long and lovingly around the old homestead, literally from the cradle to the grave and the new home beyond the grave." (3)

The English translations, but one, are in verse form. Several have rhyme, but all are made to preserve as nearly as possible the meter, the expression, and the spirit of the originals.

Besides the published and unpublished dialectic poems Mr. Gruber has written the following ten poems only in English:

Answers to "Questions from Memory."
Daylight Saving Time
Eccentric Economist, The
Education and Liquor
Football
Life's Stages
On Woodrow Wilson
Riddles
Simplified Spelling
Snowdrop, The

Most of these poems are only in manuscript, but "Answers to 'Questions from Memory,'" and "Education and Liquor," which two appeared in the **Reading Eagle**; "Simplified Spelling," which appeared in the **Muhlenberg Monthly**; and "The Snowdrop," included in the **Pennsylvania-German**, have been hitherto published.

"Questions from Memory," relative to fishing in the Tulpehocken Creek, by Tess Weinheim, was published in the **Reading Eagle** of October 25, 1932. Mr. Gruber, who had often angled in the same creek for catfish, sunfish redfin, and suckers, read the article and wrote the poem in English, "Answers to 'Question from Memory." This poem, a description of fishing fifty years ago by means of outline, setline, trot-line, and with swimmers (minnows or "baitfish"), contains some good internal rhyming.

About half of this group are poems written in a critical or satirical vein, such as "Daylight Saving Time," "The Eccentric Economist," "Education and Liquor," "Football," "On Woodrow Wilson," "Simplified Spelling." "Daylight Saving Time," the latest of all his poems, is reproduced here as an example of this type.

Out of the depths of personal desire
For leisure to do more golfing and sporting;
Forth from the restless minds that aspire
To follow the Country Clubs' sportive disporting;
Forth from eccentric brains obsessed
With a passion to rove or with frolic's mad craving—
From sources like these springs the urgent request
For the foreign, nonsensical daylight saving.

Two, "Life's Stages," "Riddles," are serious, reflective, and philosophical. The first of these two is reproduced here.

Babyhood fretting impatiently,
Haunted by vague curiosity.

Childhood viewing things of earth and sky,
Wondering how, when, what, where, why.

Mystery and pathos urging youth along,
Evolving comedy, tragedy, song.

Manhood and womanhood, youth outgrown,
Planting and reaping, seeking the unknown;
Striving or battling for fulness of measure
Of present and future treasure and pleasure.

Old age, whimsical, curiously wise,
Musing, awaiting the great surprise.

1934.

"The Snowdrop," which has been included with these ten poems is a translation of a German poem, "Schneegloeckchen," by Lorenz Gleich (1798-1856). The snowdrop is a small plant bearing flowers almost before winter's snow leaves the ground.

1—Reichard, H. H., "Pennsylvania-German Dialect Writings and their Writers." **Pennsylvania-German Society Proceedings and Addresses**, v. 26: 38 (1918)
2—ibid, p. 37
3—ibid, p. 38
4—ibid, p. 40

(To be continued)

Du Bischt Yuscht Grawd Wie 'N Blum

(Mr. Gruber's translation from Heinrich Heine's well known poem "Du bist wie eine Blume.")

Du bischt yuscht grahd wie 'n Blum,
So lieblich, suess und schoe;
Ich guck dich a' und 's is m'r bang
Es duht dich epper weh.

Es kummt mir fohr als wenn
Ich soe't immer mit dir geh
Und sehna dass du allfort bleibscht
So lieblich, suess und schoe.

Aus Unserm Briefkaschte

March 28, 1938

Editor,
'S PENNSYLFAWNISCH DEITSCH ECK:

Please call the attention of your readers to an error in my article "Moon's Signs in Almanacs" in the ECK for March 26, where it is stated that the moon makes the circuit of the zodiac in 29 days. It should read 27 days, for the moon revolves round the earth in 29 days only with reference to the sun, which each month moves Westward 30 degrees in the zodiac.

Cyrus H. Eshelman
Lakewood, Ohio.

March 29, 1938.

Dear Sir:

Reading John Birmelin's little poem about the zodiac characters brought to my mind a little poem we used to know about them. I am a bit doubtful about a few words but I think the poem ran about like this:

Der Widder gebt Schiecs,
Die Kinner sinn bees;
Der Leeb, der brillt,
Die Wok, die gilt;
Der Schitz, der schiesst,
Der Wasserman giesst;
Der Fisch, der schwimmt,
Der Schteebock schpringt;
Der Skorpion schtecht,
Die Jungfraa schprecht;
Der Krebs, der glemmt,
Der Ochs, der rennt.

I don't know where we saw this rime. Perhaps in the old German editions of the Hagerstown Almanack. What a marvelous faculty memory is! I am sure I have not thought about that zodiac poem in perhaps 40 years! Yet with a little effort and the right associated thought it comes forth like something packed away long ago in a chest and long afterward reopened.

Cyrus H. Eshleman,
Lakewood, Ohio.

(Mr. Eshleman will find two interesting variants of his own version of the rime about the signs of the zodiac in the ECK for February 29, 1936.—Ed.)

Mei Mutter Ihra Garta

MICHAEL A. GRUBER

In die Heidelberger Hiwla
Is en Haus, mohl gepebbel dash'd;
Gega Morga und Owet die Giwla;
En Bortsch an der Nord seit gelash'd;
Im Keller is en Brunna,
Der Anfang fun'ra Grick
Die find sich endlich drunna
An die Tulpehock Forge Brick.

Am Hang fum Wissahiwwel,
Paar Schritt fun sellem Haus,
Ganz wedder em Backoffa Giwwel,
Am Wassergrawa naus,
Dort leit en Achtel Acker,
Gebauert mit Schipp und Recha;
Und Fruehyahrs halt's em wacker
Der gut Grund rum zu schtecha.

Sell war mei Mutter ihra Garta,
Fun Ungraut immer frei,
Und all die Laenner warta
Uf ihra Blanzerei.
Sin etlich glehna Graewa
Mit Zwiwla Suma g'seht,
Des frueh Salaat Schtick nehwa
Wu owwa der Buchsschtock schteht;

Dann kumma die g'schteckta Zwiwla
Und artlich frueh Graut Schteck;
Derno' die Gummra Hiwla,
Und Buhna net weit aweck;
Am Paethel zweh Raaia Erbsa,
Ums Land rum Reddich g'schteckt,
Und an der Fenss paar Kerbsa
Mit die Rehwa outside g'schtreckt.

No' sin noch ann'ra Laenner—
F'r schpoht Graut 'sgross und brehd,
Mit Rothruewa um die Enner
Und Reddich druf rum g'seht;
Uf ehns sin frueh Grumbiera,
Tomattas und so weiter;
En anners is in Scheira
F'r diff'rent Art Gekraeuter—

Eh Schtick hot Gummra, schpohta,
Paar Schtrehma hen Salaat,
Und Cantalopes gerota
So gross wie en Naab im Raad.
Zweh Seita um der Garta
Hen schoena Kornstrauwa Schteck,
Und Grusselbiera, paar Sarta,
Hen hie und do' en Eck.

En Erbiera Schtick, und Gwendel,
Blohberger und Salwei Thee,
Und Saffrich mit gehlroda Bendel
Duhna au' im Garta schteh.
'S gebt au' Andiffta, Ruewa,
Und Yudakerscha f'r Pei,
Und hie und dorta schiewa
Paar fremma Blanza sich nei.

Dann wu mer am Dierchia nei kumma
Zwischig zweh Buchsschteck ferbei,
Dort schtehna die alta Blumma
Doch alla Yahr ganz neu;
Und ehns fun sellie Sarta—
Do' wett ich doch en Bens—
Is nimmie in fiel Garta,
Des is die "Schtruvlich Nens."

Awwer in mei Kindheits Yahra,
Zu mir en schoe Gelock,
Die schoenschta Blumma waara
Am Johnnie-jump-ups Schtock.
'Sis noch en Land zu nenna,
En schmaales an der Wiss,
Die Blanza dort druf zu kenna
F'r Niemand dummes is.

Dort find mer Rhubarb, Peterlie,
Liebschteckel, Schpargelgraut,
Alantwurzel, Meterlie,
Kopchiablettcha, Muttergraut,
Garta Gnorlich, Rosmarie,
Schpeck-und-Oyer, Hertzschpergraut,
Alter Mann, und Altie Frau,
Hahnakaem, und Fuechsaschwaenz.

Dickschta Erbiera nehwa drah,
Schwerdelcher schier wie en Sens,
(Die mit Blumma, grossa bloha),
Suessa Schropps, und weisa Lillia,
Ritterschpaara, Hinkelgloha,
Corianner, und Camilla—
Dehl f'r Krankheit hinnergeh,
Dehl f'r G'schmack, und dehl f'r schoe.

1912.

This descriptive poem when published in the **Pennsylvania-German Magazine**, was illustrated by a picture of the Gruber homestead. The garden, farmlands, and barn are also visible. A note on the same page says:

> The writer of the following lines has given a description of the different products, vegetables, and plants raised in his mother's garden, which is in general a description of most gardens of thrifty Pennsylvania-German farmers, the planting and care of such gardens being generally superintended by the farmer's wife. Shame on those who disdain the honest, humble, useful, intelligent toil and labors of thrifty Pennsylvania-German wives, mothers, and daughters. How many of our gaudily dressed city belles could successfully direct or perform the work of such a garden.

In the dialect version here included the author has suggested that the "v" in certain words be changed to "w." which is the way they should have been written originally. In "Schtruvlich" and "Gnovlich" the "v" is retained because it looks better that way.—D. S. K.

The Life and Works of Michael A. Gruber

A THESIS BY DONALD SELLERS KLOPP

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS, August, 1937, at the Pennsylvania State College, The Graduate School, Department of English Literature.

(For permission to print this unpublished thesis we are indebted to Pennsylvania State College and to Professor W. L. Werner of the English Department of that college. But thanks are due also to Mr. Donald S. Klopp, the writer of the thesis, and to Mr. Michael A. Gruber himself for their various courtesies.—Ed.)

Conclusion

II. A Consideration of the Writings of Mr. Gruber

2. PROSE WRITINGS

Much of Mr. Gruber's prose writings is historical, genealogical, or controversial. The **Pennsylvania-German** printed ten such articles. The **Old Home Week Souvenior** contains three additional articles. As quoted in the biography; two of the articles were controversial letters sent to the **Reading Daily Eagle**.

Four titles might be classed as "books": **Diamond Jubilee Book of Pictures**, a book of detailed notes and photographic views taken by the author of the Robesonia community; **Photographic Views of St. Daniel's Church, and the Womelsdorf Parish Record**, another book of photographs and notes put together by the author: **Transcript of the Old Record of Births and Baptisms of the Lutheran Congregation of Heidelberg**, a long and valuable genealogical compilation; and "The Tulpehocken Confusion," an important chapter contributed by Mr. Gruber to a book about the Lutheran Church in Berks County, entitled **Lutherans in Berks County**.

More should be said about the **Old Record of Births and Baptisms. . . .** It is a long, scholarly 562-page transcript and translation of the births and baptisms of the Lutheran Congregation in Heidelberg, now known as St. Daniel's Church. There are only two copies in existence, both made by the author, and bound in morocco, altogether a large, heavy volume. It includes an alphabetical arrangement of parents, showing under each head of a family the names of the respective children baptized, with date of birth and of baptism and names of sponsors; an alphabetically arranged list of the sponsors mentioned; an alphabetically arranged list of persons buried in the burial ground connected with that church, with dates of birth and death and other information given in the inscriptions on the early tombstones erected to the memory of the respective persons named; brief biographies of the ministers who served the congregation; brief historical sketch of the congregation, the acquisition of the church land, erection of the buildings; and a very comprehensive index. The whole was put together in Washington, D. C., in 1908, and was the culmination of two and one-half years of painstaking research. The thoroughness and scholarship of the finished work are typical of the approach the author has used in any work he has attempted. He has presented one of the volumes to the congregation mentioned, refusing any financial reward. It was written largely in honor of Mr. Gruber's early ancestors, founders of the same church. Mr. Milton Stump, present custodian of the books, in Robesonia, reports that genealogists from far and wide come every week to do research in this book.

Mr. Gruber has done a great deal of other research in the prose field. He has looked up obscure data for many persons seeking information. He furnished factual material for J. Bennett Nolan, Esq., Reading author, in his book **George Washington and the Town of Reading** and for Dr. P. C. Croll, editor, in his book **Annals of Womelsdorf and the Tulephocken Community.**

A list of all the prose writings follows. Brief descriptions of each title can be seen in the Bibliography. This list does not include titles of speeches made at Bernville Old Home Week, Womelsdorf Bicentennial, Berks Teachers' Institute at Reading, and other places.

American Mathematical Monthly, The—in Vols. I-IX.
Bernville Schools, The
Bernville's Heroes in the Wars
Diamond Jubilee Book of Pictures
Die Neu Welt
Early German Settlement of Winchester, Virginia
Genealogy
Lutheran Congregation of Heidelberg
M. A. Gruber on English and German
Moses Dissinger
Newborn, The
Old Inhabitants in the Vicinity of Bernville
Pennsylvania-Germans, The: A Reply to Professor Hart.
Photographic Views of St. Daniel's Church. . . .
Reply to the Letter of Dr. Alfred P. Schultz
Research for other authors:
Dr. P. C. Croll
J. Bennett Nolan
Reith (Reed) Genealogy
Salaries of Our Teachers, The
Tombstone Inscription of Persons Born Prior to 1801 . . . . .
Transcript of the Old Record . . . of the Lutheran Congregation
Tulpehocken Confusion, The

III. PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN ORTHOGRAPHY

The write (1) of the best Pennsylvania-German dictionary that we have, observed that no two persons write this dialect alike, that very few have been consistent with themselves; and finally, that German orthography should be made the basis for the spelling of it.

Mr. Gruber might be classed among the few who are consistent with themselves, and the few who base their spelling on the German. He believes that there should be made an adaptation, not adoption, of the German vocabulary with such variations as would help the eye of an English reader. For example, Mr. Gruber reasons that since the German word for beautiful is **schoen**, by extending the umlaut of **o** to **oe, the** Pennsylvania-German form should be **schoe** or **scheh** substituting the German **eh** for **oe**). The form **schoe** could be used, but that looks too much like the English "shoe" to the reader not versed in German. With **oe** or **eh** having the sound of English long **a**, some authors prefer to write it **shay**, but such spelling detracts from the nature of the dialect. Another example of adaptation of the dialect to the parent language is the spelling of the German word **schreiben**, meaning, to write. Mr. Gruber would spell the dialectic adaptation **schreiwa** or **schreiwe**, but preferring the former because it, unlike the second, must be pronounced in two syllables. In the word **schreiwa** the letter **v** is sometimes used for **w**. The use of **v**, however, is meant to be the English **vs**, the equivalent of which is the German **w**. The German **v** would have the English **f** sound. Therefore to write the dialect form of the word **written** he would prefer **g' schriwwa**. In the dialect poems appended will be found occasionally the interchange of the **v** and **w**, to be interpreted as explained above. There are Hiwwel, Hiwla, Hivvel, Hivla; Giwwel, Giwla, Givvel, Givla. These are several of the few inconsistencies that occur in orthography.

Another minor change that occurs is the change of **Taag** (day) to **Dahg**.

In defense of his system of orthography **Mr.** Gruber has forcefully written that

> "The Pennsylvania-German speech is a dialect of the German language, and by no means a derivation of the English language. The orthography of Pennsylvania-German speech should follow German orthography as nearly as possible. Of course there are a number of variations. We would, no doubt use **Deitsch** instead of **Deutsch** because the Pennsylvania German uses the English long i sound represented by **ei**, while the Germans uses the peculiar **eu** sound . . Of course, some wish to have the English form of representing certain sounds, so that the person who knows no German could more readily pronounce the words. Suppose such person would want to cite a German, French, or Italian word or expression, would he be accommodated by having the word or expression spelled in English fashion? Of course, English words adapted to Pennsylvania-German speech should usually be put in English form. (2)

In this way, **Mein guter Freund** (my good friend) becomes **Mei guter Freindt**, the **t** being added to distinguish the word from the English **Friend.**

Other changes in orthography center about such words as **He'math, Baum, Auga, Draum, Paar, Leut, Baem."** It becomes evident from a study of these minor changes that Mr. Gruber at first clung more closely to German orthography, later making slight changes for phonetic reasons. From the German **Heimath (home)** he formed **He'math**), but now uses **Hehmet**, the pronunciation of **eh** representing the long English **a** (ay) sound. The dialect rendering of **tree** occurs as **Baum, Baam,** and **Bahm. He** thought that the German word **Baum**, pronounced as if spelled **Bowm** in English, might by persons inclined to English be pronounced with a vowel sound of **au** in the English word **fault**. The form **Baam** was then used upon the assumption that readers would know that **aa** in German is always pronounced much like English **au** or **aw.** The form **Bahm** evolved with the understanding that **ah** in the dialect represents a very broad English sound of **ah.** So are found also **Auga, Aaga, Ahga** for **Augen** (eyes); and **Draum, Draam, Drahm,** for **Traum (Dream)**. The German **auch** (also) occurs as **au'; a'**; or **ah. Paar** and **Pahr** (pair); **Daal, Dahl** (vale); **Leut, Leit (persons); Baehm, Baem, Behm, (trees)** are other variables.

Mr. Gruber has borne in mind the following vowel sounds. German and Pennsylvania-German long **a** is pronounced between English **ah** and **aw**; short **a** like English short **o**; long **e** like English long **a;** short **e** like English short **e**; long **i** like English **long e**; short **i** like English short **i**; long **o** like English long **o**; short **o**, like English short **u**; long **u** like English long **oo** in **shoot**; short **u** like English short **oo** in **look**; **y** as a vowel is similar to **i**.

As to Pennsylvania-German diphthongs, **ae** and **oe**, when long are sounded like English long **a**, but when short like English short **e**; **au** like English **ow**, as in **Haus** and **Maus**; **ei** like English long **i**; **ee** like English long **a**; **eu** like English long **i**, similar to **ei**, as **Leut, heut**; **ie** like English long **e**; for **oe** see **ae** above; **ue** or **u unlaut** like English long **e**, as **beruehmt, Fuess, au** like English long **i**, as in **Geil.**

The consonant **y** stands for the German **j**, as **yung** for **jung**, and **yahr** for **Jahr**. The combination **th** or **Th** where it apppears here is to be pronounced like English **t. Thraena (tears)** is an example.

In conclusion, it might be said that Mr. Gruber, though favoring the original German orthography, nevertheless seems to steer a middle course between the Anglicized spelling of Rauch and the too stilted literary German of Wollenweber. Where no suitable Pennsylvania-German equivalents could be found, Mr. Gruber in his poems was not averse to lifting certain expressions from the English idiom. There is, however, no welter of incongruities such as one finds, for example, in the "grawd dorrich" (straight through) method of spelling used by Harter, Mays, Horne, and the latter Grumbine.

1—Lambert, M. C., "A Dictionary of the Non-English Words of the Pennsylvania-German Dialect. "**The Pennsylvania-Society**, (October, 1924), Preface p. x. p. x.

2—Quoted from a letter to the writer, March ,, 1937.

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Reading Eagle; Reading Daily Eagle. Cf. the annotated bibliography.

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The above concludes the publication of Mr. Klopp's thesis "The Life and Works of Michael A. Gruber," but for Chapter IV "Pennsylvanal German Poems Previously Published" and Chapter V "Pennsylvania German Poems Hitherto Unpublished." Some of these poems have already appeared in the ECK and others will appear in the future.—Ed.